

I hope your Christmas was peaceful and blessed.

I got to work two fires this weekend-- Pat was the Battalion Commander for each one. Since there were no residents (and no looky-lous) at the fire, Pat invited me to sit in the command vehicle for a while. I've never done that, and I have to say, I'm amazed at what all you folks do! I'm also very impressed. Obviously you've had lots of years to perfect the process; what you do works, and works well. I have a deeper appreciation for LFR's work, having seen more of the behind-the-scenes stuff.

I don't know who the Safety guy was at the two fires. He was very nice to work with. I learned that he went to the hospital after the fire to check on the young man who was (at that time) critically injured. He may not think much of his actions; I am touched, as I'm sure the family was. That seems above and beyond the call of duty. Maybe you all do that kind of thing. How kind.

I was also touched by the actions of a firefighter--I think his last name is . Carrie had taken off her engagement ring before going to bed. It was the first time she had taken it off since Eric had given it to her. She really wanted to have her ring. When I communicated that to the firefighter (and the driver, whose name I don't know), he went into the house and retrieved it. It meant so much to Carrie to have her ring!

Jimmy was the Inspector for both fires. I gotta tell you, he's a hoot! (You probably already know that.) I worked a fire with him a year or two ago that occurred during the day. No one was home, and so he showed me a little bit of what Inspectors look for as they're investigating a fire. He had a couple of guys with him who were in training to be inspectors, and it was fascinating to hear and see what all they look for, how they do their job, etc.

I'm so appreciative to all the LFR personnel who go out of their way to include the Chaplains and who invite us to see what they do and how they do it. It's personally satisfying; more importantly, it helps me to be a better Chaplain.

Thanks to you for all you do. And thanks for helping create an environment at LFR where people are important and where Chaplains are treated so well.